

For Immediate Release:

February 19, 2004

Contact:

Carolina Camarena, (408) 277-2930
Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services

Adan Lupercio, (408) 297-9135
T.E.E.N.S. President

Lina Broydo, (408) 998-3916
Fairmont Hotel

San José Teen Leaders Get Tips on Dining Etiquette from the Fairmont Hotel

T.E.E.N.S. group acknowledged for their positive influence and leadership

San José – *Which one is the salad fork?* This was the problem at hand for a group of San José teen leaders until the Fairmont Hotel stepped in with a few pointers.

Often in a position of having to meet with City leaders, youth from *Teens Engaging to Enhance Neighborhood Services* (T.E.E.N.S.) often felt uncomfortable in dining situations, so the fearless group approached the Fairmont Hotel for assistance. Now the downtown hotel will honor the youth group for their positive influences and leadership with a free lunch and a presentation on dining etiquette on **Friday, February 20 at 3:00 p.m.** in the **Fountain Restaurant**.

T.E.E.N.S., established in 2001, is a youth coalition of 17 active members between the ages of 14-21. “We bring a united youth voice to important adult meetings,” said Adan Lupercio, T.E.E.N.S. President, “and advise our community on issues that pertain to us, the youth.”

The Fairmont Hotel of San José also plays an integral role in the community, hosting presidents, dignitaries, celebrities, CEO’s and noted scholars. The Fairmont partners with San Jose’s charitable and social organizations to host such events as the Santa Clara Golden Circle, the Junior League Gala, as well as fund-raisers for organizations such as The Tech Museum of Innovation, Bellarmine Preparatory Academy, and now the T.E.E.N.S. group.

-More-

“The staff of the Fairmont San José is delighted to welcome the young women and men of T.E.E.N.S. and salutes their achievements and their contribution to providing strong support for the neighborhoods initiative in the City of San José,” says Cyril Isnard, Fairmont's General Manager. “We are extremely proud of their hard work and dedication and wish them continued success.”

T.E.E.N.S includes youth from Washington United, Gardner and Alma Youth Centers, and serves the Greater Gardener and Washington Strong Neighborhoods Initiative areas. “T.E.E.N.S. is the best way for young members of our community to get together and strive for change in their community, and it also breeds civic responsibility,” said Omar Torres, President of the Guadalupe Washington Neighborhood Association.

T.E.E.N.S. mission is to: clean, beautify and maintain aspects of the community; rid the neighborhood of graffiti; promote the activities that occur in the neighborhoods and foster resident participation; involve the youth of the neighborhood with all their activities and functions; collaborate with all other neighborhood associations; and provide assistance with the function of educational support and enhance opportunity in the Alma, Washington and Gardner neighborhoods.

T.E.E.N.S. has a positive impact in both the neighborhood and members' lives. Lupercio was recently elected to serve as the Council District 3 Youth Commissioner. President George Bush, former Governor Gray Davis, and Councilmember Cindy Chavez have all also recognized the group publicly. For more information on the T.E.E.N.S. group, contact Adan Lupercio at (408) 297-9135 or teens408@yahoo.com.

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is the largest operator of luxury hotels and resorts in North America. The Fairmont hotel in downtown San José offers 805 deluxe guest rooms, including 77 luxurious suites, and 65,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space. The 20th floor features a collection of grand penthouse suites, with a private boardroom and spectacular city views. For more information on Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, visit www.fairmont.com.

#